

Appl. No.: 09/802,367
Amdt. dated 06/24/2005
Reply to Office action of March 24, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

In the Office Action, Claims 61-70 were noted as pending in the Application and all Claims were rejected.

By the present Amendment, Claims 68-70 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, Claims 61-67 are now pending in the subject application.

The rejections of Claims 61-67 are addressed separately below.

Rejection of Claim 61 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by www.GolfAgent.com (“the GolfAgent website”)

On Page 2, Item 3 of the Office Action, Claim 61 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and being anticipated by www.GolfAgent.com (“the GolfAgent website”).

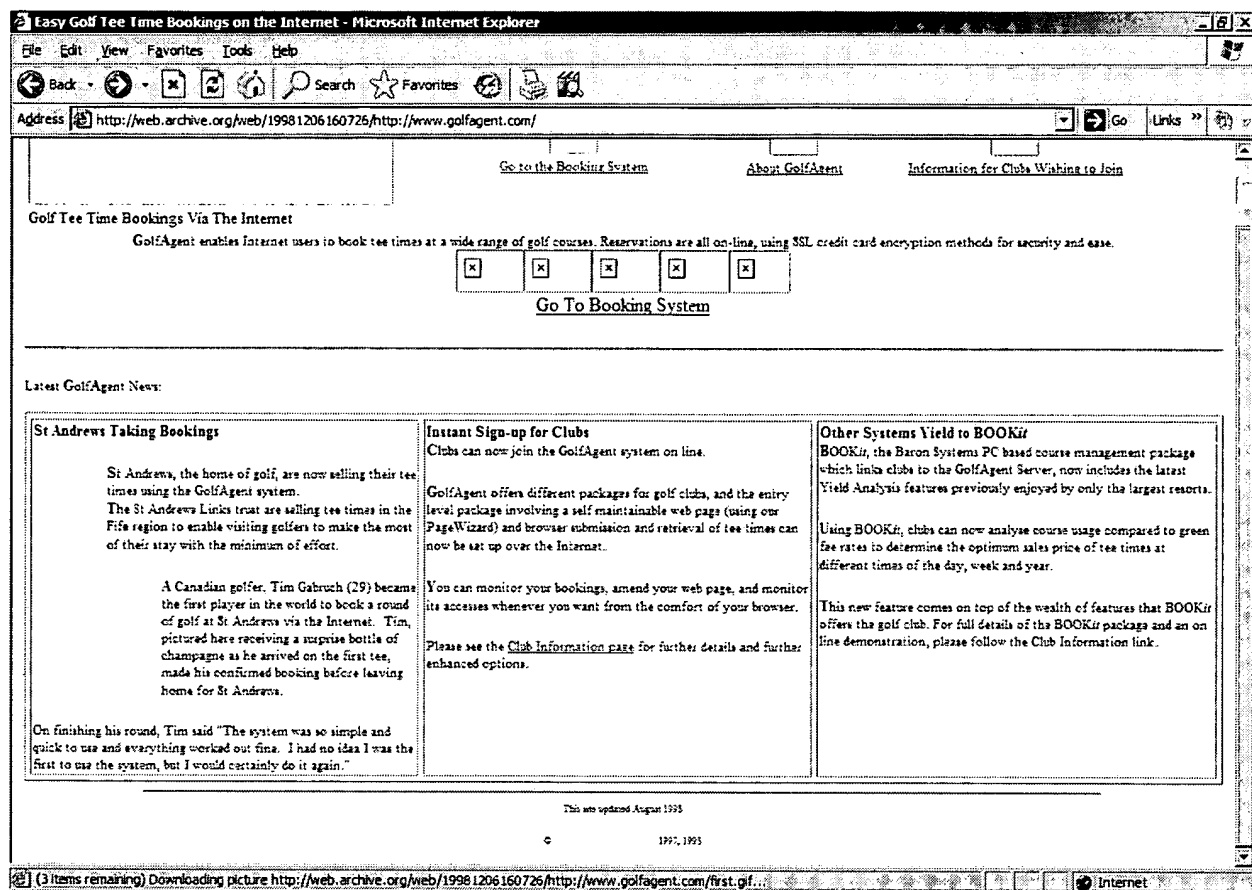
The GolfAgent website and the reasons that Claim 61 is patentable over the GolfAgent website, are addressed sequentially below.

A. The GolfAgent Website

The Office Action relies upon three different versions of the Golf Agent website (12/6/1998, 4/28/1999, and 5/2/1999 versions) available at the www.archive.org website. The subject application claims priority to provisional applications filed March 9, 2000 and March 11, 2000. Thus, the 4/28/1999 and 5/2/1999 versions of the Golf Agent website are not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). There appears to be no 5/2/1999 version of the Golf Agent website available at the www.archive.org website.

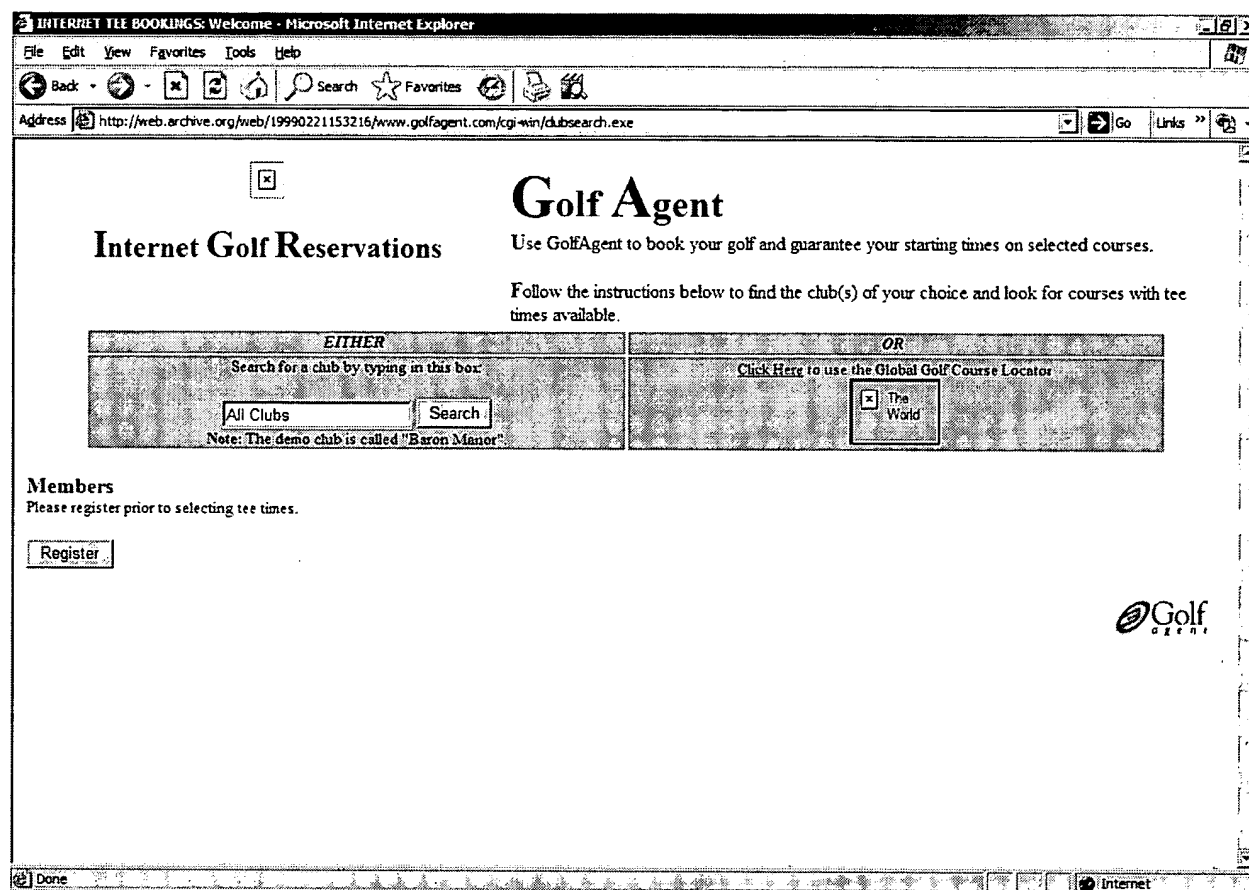
The 12/6/1998 version of the Golf Agent website alleges that it enables Internet users to book tee times at golf courses. The “home” web page appears below:

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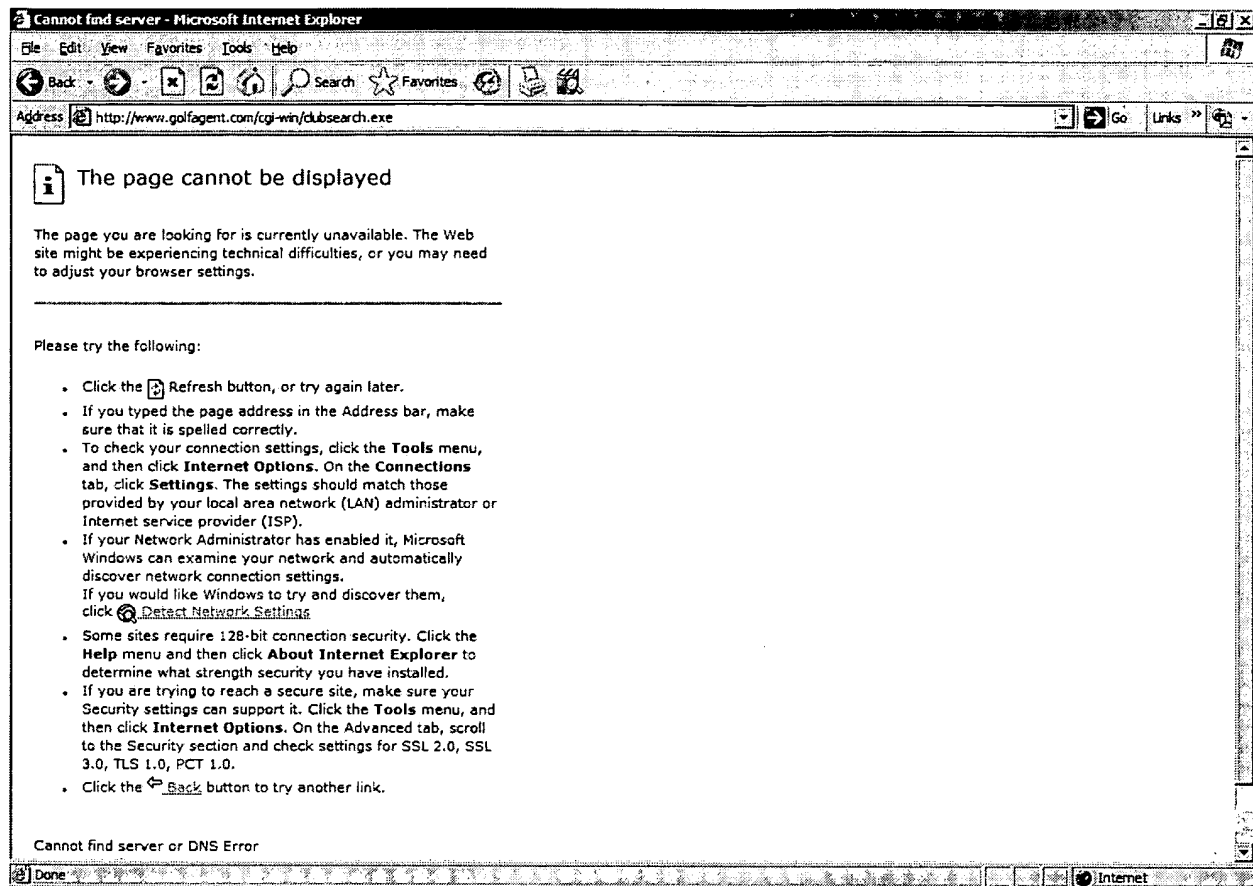
By selecting the "Go to Booking System" link in the above web page, the following web page appears:

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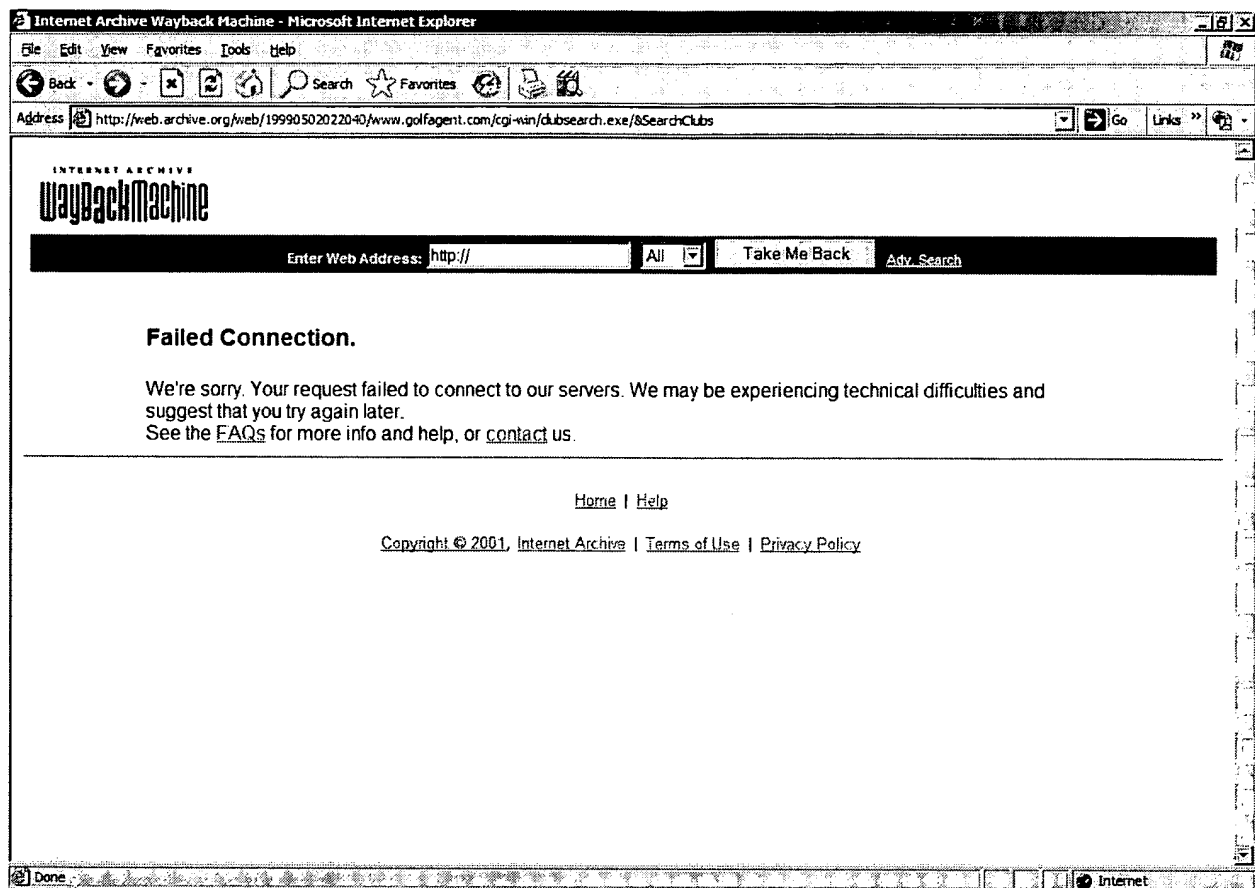
By activating the "Search" button above, the following page is displayed:

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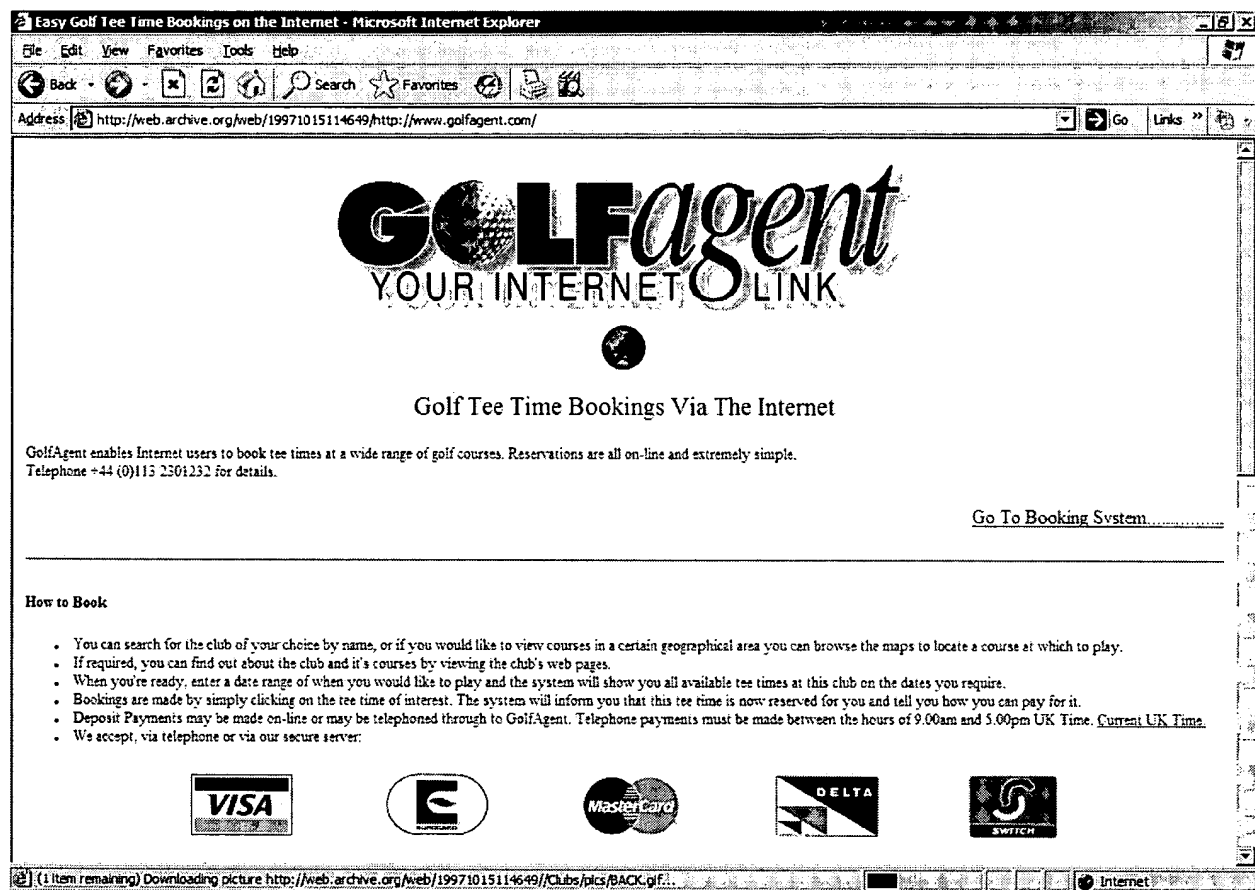
The 4/28/1999 version of the Golf Agent website failed to link to any further web page, instead generating the web page below:

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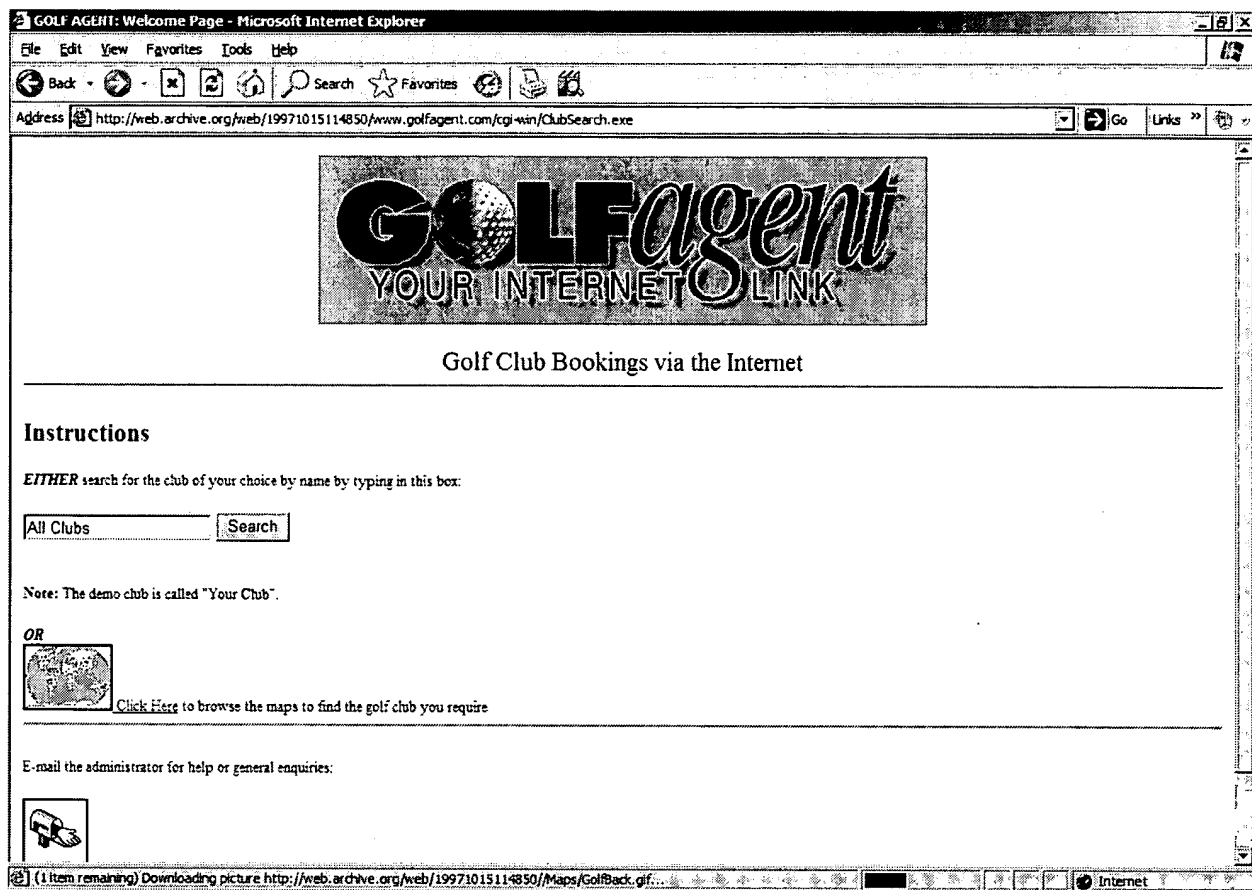
Attached to the Office action are certain excerpts from the 10/15/1997 version of the Golf Agent website , which is provided below:

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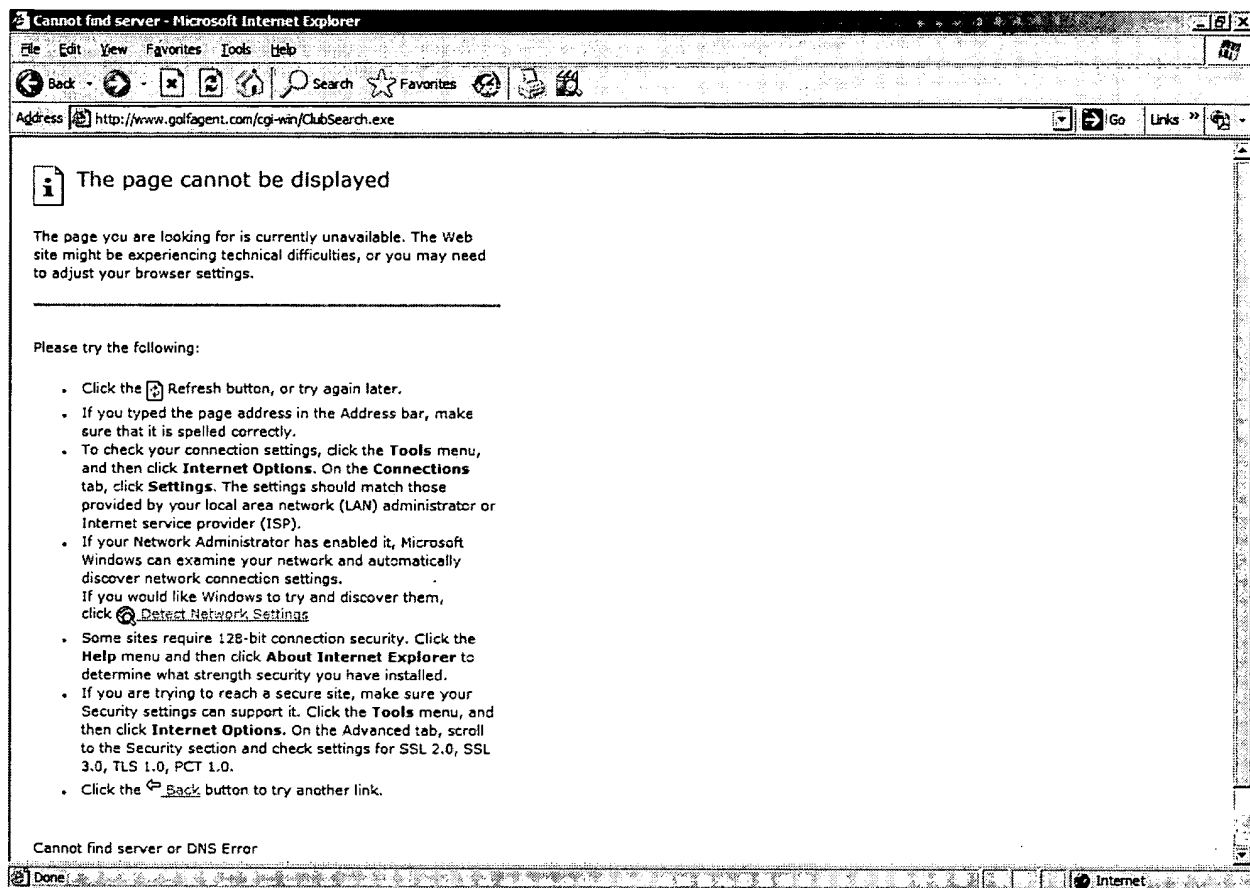
By pressing the "Go to Booking System" link in the above web page, the following web page appears:

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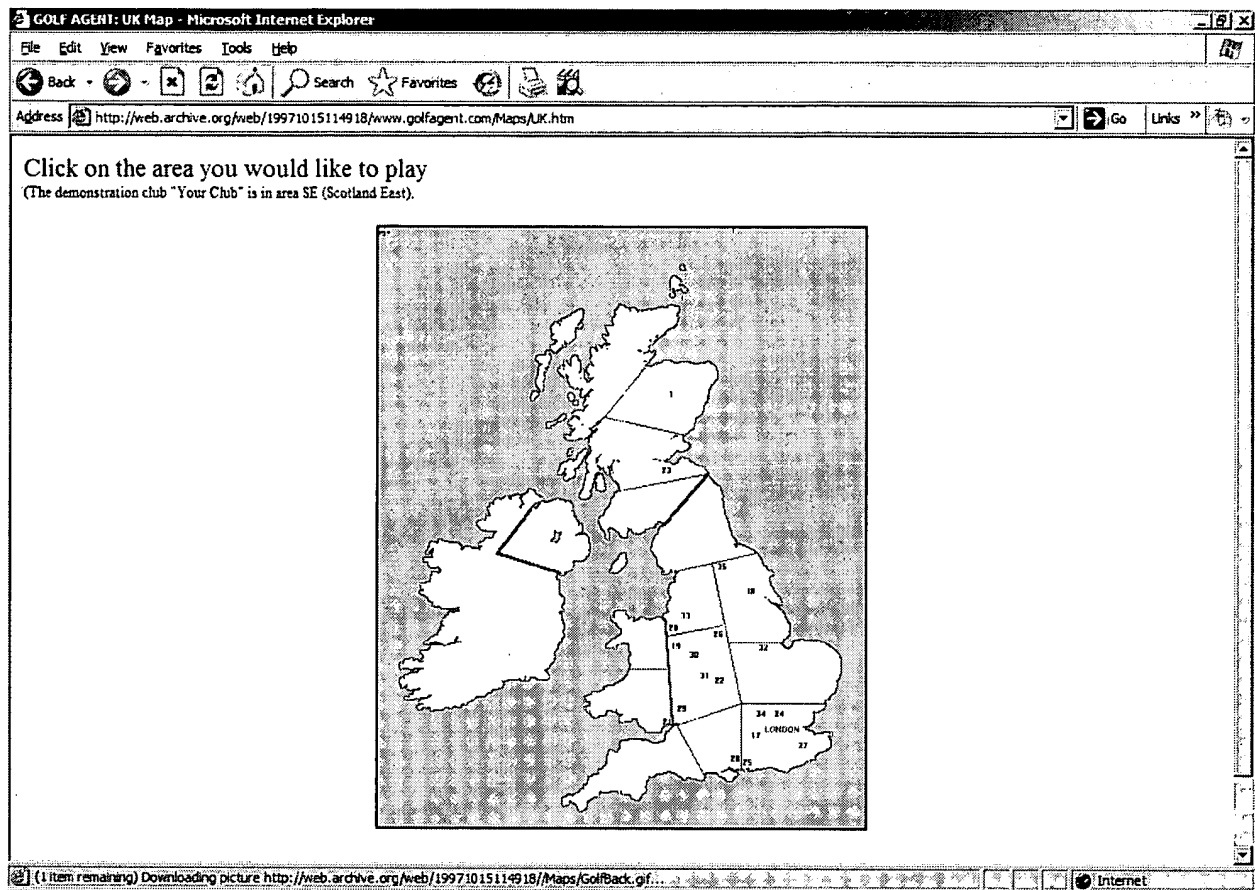
Clicking on "Search" above produces the following web page:

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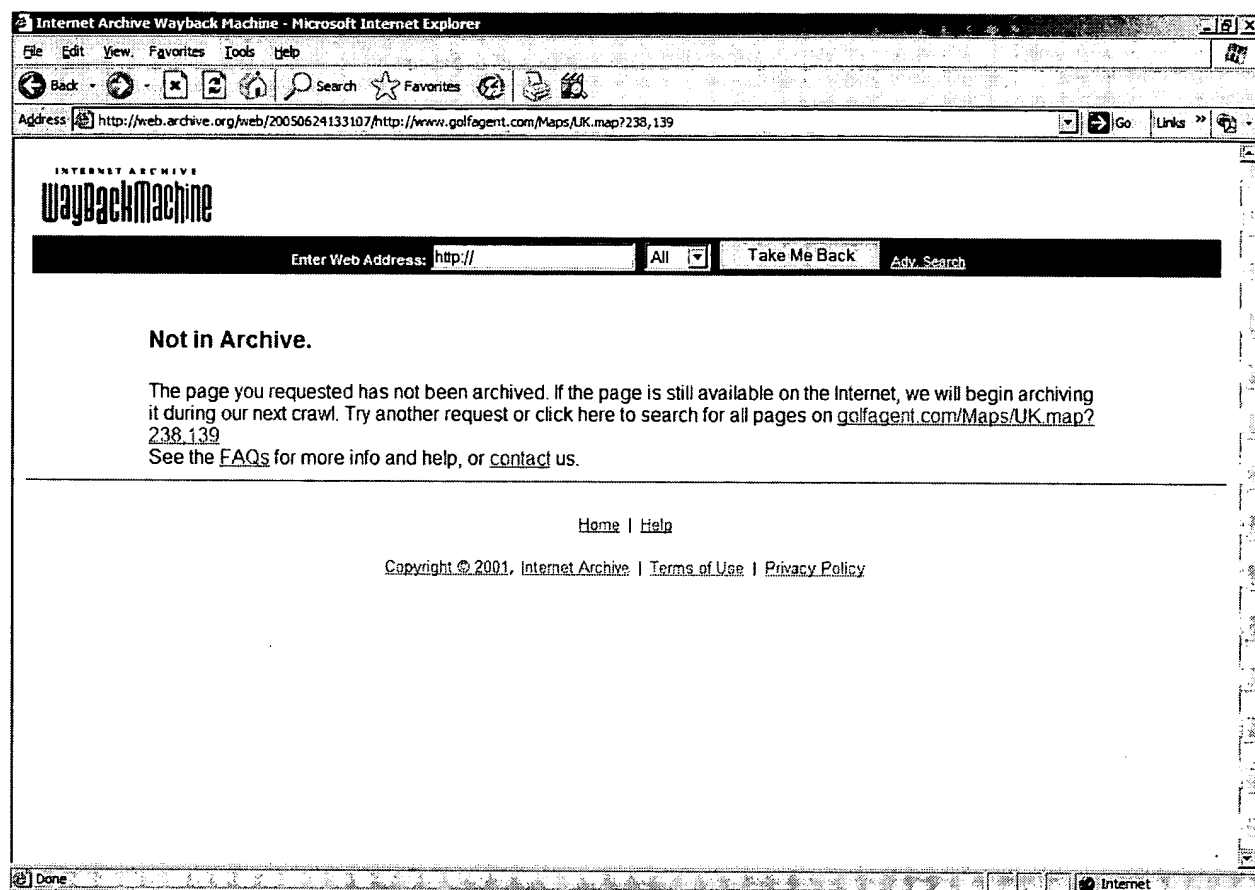
Clicking on the "Click Here" link next to the map yields the following:

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Clicking on the regions of the map produces the following web page:

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There is no disclosure in the GolfAgent website of any generation of a single web page listing multiple tee times available at a plurality of golf courses for reservation by golfers, in which the multiple tee times listed as available for each golf course for a date is a subset of all of the tee times at the golf course for the date.

Claim 61 is Patentable over the Prior Art

Claim 61 is recited as follows:

Claim 61. (previously presented) A method comprising the steps of:

- with a hub server,
- receiving a request for a web page from a golfer computer via a communications network, the golfer computer located remotely from the hub server;
- in response to the request,

**generating a single web page listing multiple tee times available at a plurality of golf courses for reservation by golfers, the multiple tee times indicated as available for each golf course for a date being a subset of all of the tee times at the golf course for the date; and
transmitting the single web page to the golfer computer via the communications network.**

The Golf Agent website fails to disclose at least the above-emphasized features of Claim 61. In particular, the Golf Agent website discloses no step of “generating a single web page listing multiple tee times available at a plurality of golf courses for reservation by golfers, the multiple tee times indicated as available for each golf course for a date being a subset of all of the tee times at the golf course for the date.” This feature of the claimed invention enables a golfer to view a single web page with multiple golf courses and available tee times, not the entire tee sheet for each golf course, from which the golfer can select. The golfer thus is provided with the variety of selections from multiple golf courses and available tee times for those golf courses on a single web page. The golfer thus need not “drill down” into the specific web pages for a golf course, nor need the golfer be redirected to the golf course’s website, either of which requires the golfer to use the move forward and backward buttons of the browser, thus leading to lost time and frustration of the golfer. In contrast, for example, the 10/15/1997 version of the Golf Agent website states “When you’re ready, enter the date range of when you would like to play and the system will show you all available tee times at this golf club on the dates you require.” This suggests the Golf Agent website is golf-course-specific “drill down” style architecture, and in contrast to the claimed invention, does not list multiple available tee times for multiple golf courses on a single web page. In addition, the date range requirement for a single golf course is tantamount to the “shot in the dark” approach in which it is very possible that the golfer will receive a response of “not available” and thus become frustrated in using the system. Moreover, in the claimed invention, the additional step of “transmitting the single web page to the golfer computer via the communications network” is necessarily not disclosed in the Golf Agent website since it does not disclose generating a single web page with multiple available tee times for multiple golf course, but less than the entire tee sheet of each golf course. Thus, it is

submitted that Claim 61 is patentable over the Golf Agent website. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

**Rejection of Claim 61 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) based on 4/28/1999 and 5/2/1999 versions of
the Golf Agent Website**

On Page 4, Item 4 of the Office Action, Claims 62-70 were rejected based on 4/28/1999 and 5/2/1999 versions of the Golf Agent website. There appears to be no 5/2/1999 version of the Golf Agent website, and thus the rejection is respectfully traversed for this reason. Claims 62-70 are patentable over the prior art of record for at least the reasons stated below.

Claims 62 through 67 depend from Claim 61 and include all the limitations of that Claim plus additional limitations which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, Claim 62 recites:

Claim 62. (previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 61 further comprising the steps of:

receiving specific tee times posted by a plurality of golf course users' computers via the communications network, the golf course users' computers located remotely from the hub server and the golfer computer;
storing the available tee times in a database; and
in response to the request,
retrieving the available tee times from the database for use in the generating the single web page.

The Golf Agent website fails to disclose at least the above-emphasized steps of receiving, storing and retrieving available tee times for multiple golf courses for use in generating the single web page listing multiple available tee times in correspondence with multiple golf courses for the golfer's selection, as recited in Claim 62. To the limited extent it can be understood given that many of its links do not work, the Golf Agent website appears to be at best a "drill down" architecture in which a golfer must request a listing of golf courses, then select a golf course, then further specify a date and tee time, then reserve a tee time (how this is done and whether by email, telephone or otherwise is not known from the archives of the Golf Agent website). Even assuming that the Golf Agent website disclosed hosting of multiple golf courses' on-line reservation systems, there is no disclosure of use of data for available tee times from multiple

golf courses to generate a single web page listing of available tee times at the multiple golf courses without listing the golf courses' entire tee sheets (i.e., a subset of all tee times). This feature is important to providing a single web page listing that a golfer can use to reserve a tee time efficiently and with ease, thus greatly enhancing the golfer's experience in reserving a tee time online and increasing the likelihood that the golfer will continue to reserve tee times online. Claim 65 recites that "the listing of multiple available tee times are next-day tee times for respective golf courses." The Golf Agent website fails to disclose this feature of the claimed invention, which enables multiple golf courses to sell tee time inventory that would otherwise be lost. Claim 66 recites that "the request designates a specific geographic region and the single web page is generated to list available tee times for only the golf courses in this specific geographic region." The Golf Agent website fails to disclose generation of the single web page to list available tee times for only the golf courses in the specific geographic region designated by the request, as recited in Claim 66. This feature provides additional benefits to the golfer by enabling the golfer to view available tee times at multiple golf courses only within a specific geographic region of interest to the golfer. Claim 67 recites that "the request includes a date on which the golfer desires to play but does not require the golfer to specify the golfer's desired time of play in order to generate a list of available tee times." This feature of the claimed invention eliminates the "shot in the dark" approach in the prior art in which a golfer specifies a tee time only to receive a response "not available" which greatly frustrates the golfer. This feature too is not disclosed in the Golf Agent website. Thus, it is submitted that Claims 62-67 are patentable over the prior art of record for these reasons as well as for the reasons stated above with respect to Claim 61. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 62-67 is requested.

Claims 68-70 have been canceled from the subject Application, without prejudice to the filing of a continuation application directed to such Claims. Accordingly, the rejection of these Claims is moot.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is submitted that Claims 61-67 are patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and an early notice of allowance is requested for Claims 61-67.

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It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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